

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of:

Scott et al.

Serial No: 08/916,140

Filed: August 21, 1997

For: Patched Genes and Uses Related  
Thereto

Attorney Docket No. CIBT-P042003

Art Unit: 1635

Examiner: R. Schnitzler

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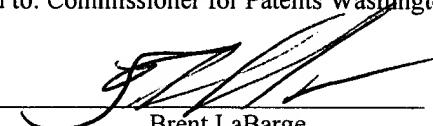
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Brent LaBarge

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**REPLY UNDER 37 CFR 1.116**

Sir:

This amendment is being filed in reply to the outstanding Office Action, mailed October 31, 2002, in connection with the above application.

In the claims:

For the convenience of the Examiner, all claims whether or not amended are presented below.

Please cancel, without prejudice, claims 72 and 73.

61. **(Five Times Amended)** A method for identifying an agent which decreases hedgehog signal transduction for ameliorating an affect of loss of function of a patched gene in a mammalian cell, comprising contacting one or more test agents with a mammalian cell in culture